

Appl. No. 10/030,319  
Amdt. dated March 2, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of December 3, 2004

### REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed the Final Office Action mailed December 3, 2004. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested. Claims 1 and 8 have been amended to include the elements of claims 3 and 10, respectively, which have subsequently been canceled. Claim 14 has been similarly amended. Claims 4 and 6 have been amended to correct minor errors. Claims 8 and 9 have been amended for clarity. New claims 21 and 22 have been added to round out the potential scope of protection. No new matter has been entered as a result of these amendments.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-2, 4-9 and 11-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Rohr et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,211,776, in view of Flick, U.S. Patent No. 6,188,326, and further in view of Kubler et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,525,648. Claims 1 and 8 have been amended to include the limitations of claims 3 and 10, respectively, thereby rendering the rejection moot with respect to independent claim 1 (and thus claims 2, 4-7, 15 and 18 depending therefrom) and independent claim 8 (and hence claims 9, 11-13, 16 and 19 depending therefrom).

With respect to independent claim 14 (and claims 17 and 20 depending therefrom), Applicants have amended the claim to require that the vehicle passenger compartment include a first area where a request signal is output and a second, smaller, area where a transponder driving radio wave is output. None of the references describe or suggest this feature, as acknowledged by the Examiner's admission of the allowability of claims 3 and 10, which recite this same limitation.

Thus, the reference has been rendered moot. Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejection. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

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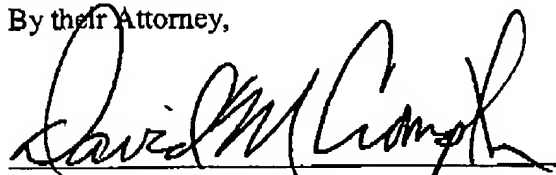
Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is requested. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.

Respectfully submitted,

Toru Maeda et al.

By their Attorney,

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

3/2/05

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